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References—Merchants & Mechanics First National Bank. All commercial agencies.

POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS OF INTEREST THAT WILL HELP OUR READERS SOLVE THEIR POULTRY PROBLEMS

BY POLK T. BRAMBLE
(Proprietor Bramble Poultry Farm)

Generally speaking, Kent County poultry raisers have had, and are having, a successful season. This has been due to several things. First, the hatcheries are turning out good chicks; second, our people are learning the art of raising chicks in large numbers; third, the service rendered by the local feed dealers, as well as the feed itself. All of these factors help.

The occasional practice of growing young chicks on restricted areas and on bare yards, and on the same ground year after year cannot be carried on if one expects to be free from worms. The all together too common practice on farms of allowing young chicks to grow up with adult stock is a practice which must be discouraged because of the fact that the old birds are a constant source of infection to the younger chicks. The young chicks are susceptible, while the old birds are more or less immune to harmful results from them.

The modern practice of growing the chicks for the first few weeks of their life in confinement of brooder houses which are frequently cleaned and disinfected, and allowing them to run out in the sun on boards or concrete platforms in front of the house, is an effort well directed and efficient, which will enable the successful rearing of chicks free from infection by the more common intestinal parasites.

Where this practice is followed, one or two precautions must be taken; namely, to be sure that the house and run are cleaned at least every week or two at the longest, and secondly, to see that flies are not allowed to breed and be present in any number around the brooding ranges. Dirty vessels, decayed vegetables or animal material, moist ground, all contain unsanitary conditions which breeds flies, and should not be tolerated about on a well managed poultry farm.

Statistics show that the people of the United States consume 207 eggs per person per annum. In Canada they consume 337 eggs per person, per annum. Health authorities claim each person should eat from two to three eggs per day. If they would, just think what an increase there would be in egg consumption. It would take a long time to over produce if eggs were consumed on the scale they should be.

Last year was a poor one as regards fertility and hatchability and lots of people were discouraged because they could not hatch as many chicks as they planned.

The present season appears to be just the reverse and there seems to be no cause for worry over the fact that eggs will not hatch nor that chicks will not live. These are the reports we get from all sources.

Just suppose, in the poultry business, we could hatch every year 90 per cent of all the eggs we set and raise 90 per cent of all the chicks we hatched; what a tremendous number of chicks there would be in the country within a comparatively short time. We find that there is constantly a tendency to balance things up in this world and that, with poultry, this balance either takes the form of low fertility or poor livability—and thus the general average is maintained.

Every poultryman is compelled to ask himself sooner or later—Are my birds affected with worms? Are the losses which I am securing and the physical condition of my flock due to worm infectation?

These question can be answered in but two ways. First, by careful study of the appearance and condition of live birds, and, secondly, by post-mortem examination of dead birds which will disclose the presence of worms in the intestinal tract if they are the cause of the trouble, and in many cases they are.

In studying, the first method, it is well to appreciate that worms always cause an emaciation of the birds affected. That is, they become rather thin, especially if the infestation is heavy. They seem to prey on the intestinal walls and contents of the intestines in such a way that affected birds cannot become properly nourished. In some cases the adult birds so affected lose their appetites. In others they eat ravenously, but in either case, the result is the same loss of weight, if they eat or not.

Another common external symptom of worms is paralysis, especially of the legs, caused by a toxic properties which the worms give off, paralyzing the nervous system. Birds affected with worms often become listless, inactive, standing around with loose plumage. They take on in advance stages, very depressed listless appearance.

While the above symptoms may be indicative of worm infestation, the only absolute sure way of successfully diagnosing the trouble is by post-mortem examination. If you have any birds that have recently died or that are apparently in a very weakened condition, the latter should be carefully dissected and the carcass of the dead bird carefully opened. The internal tract can be removed and laid out on a level table or board, where it should be dissected lengthways, and the interior of the intestines examined carefully for the presence of worms.

In many cases the intestines will be found highly distended through the large number of worms which are present.

There are proven emulsions and medicines used in treating for worms The general procedure is to get some emulsion or medicine which will cause the worms to let their hold on the intestinal tract or to weaken them.

Contest hens are no different than any other hens when it comes to reacting to weather and seasonal conditions. The old saying that any old hen will lay in the spring is probably more or less true, but it should be qualified by the statement that a vigorous, healthy hen bred for egg production will lay circles around the ordinary hen. In other words, our egg laying contests are proving to us the importance of selection and breeding for maximum egg production.

Many people are from Missouri when it comes to stories of profits—real profits—made in the poultry business.

Most of the knocks come from those who say they have tried it and lost, but these are the kind of people who would make a failure of almost anything and they will always be in the class of "down-and-outs."

The story of any successful business cannot fail to be interesting for it will disclose, in practically every instance, that the start was very modest and that the ultimate reward was secured only after much patience, some failures and a spirit of never-say-die. We do not know of an instance where a man has built up a large business over night; such things may happen in fairy stories but in real life the successful man is one who has grown up with his business and by dint of hard work has mastered it and made it what it is.

"Everybodys Poultry Magazine" has the following to say regarding turkeys.

As a rule, strong offspring are not produced by yearling breeders.

Turkeys are naturally very thirsty, and may be given milk instead of water.

Notwithstanding that young turkeys are tender, they become very hardy as they grow older, and require no artificial warmth in winter.

The use of wild-cross breeding gobblers is increasing in Rhode Island and other parts of the country.

To attain good growth by Thanksgiving, the turkeys should be hatched prior to June first. The cock birds should reach about 10 or 12 pounds.

The young birds are delicate, and very susceptible to chanigng weather conditions. They must be protected. Rainy or foggy weather is especially fatal to them.

As a rule, turkeys do little harm to growing grain In fact, by picking the insect life they destroy the enemies of plant life, unless the flock of turkeys is so large that the grain is trampled down or the green shoots are eaten by them.

A good ration for young turkeys is whole wheat and cracked corn, equal parts, either dry or cooked, corn and wheat may be fed daily after turkeys are two months old. Before that, their ration should be more or less varied. Onions are relished and act as a tonic. Even the matured birds enjoy an occasional bran mash containing chopped raw onions.

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